# THC (MARIJUANA)

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# THC Update Content:

- Introduction
- Marijuana Pharmacology & Effects
- Urinalysis & Drug Lab Procedures

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# *GOALS AND OBJECTIVES*

- **Reduce the impact of THC use on the army.**
- **Understand the effects of THC on the body and brain.**
- **To diminish “barracks lawyer” tales.**

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# *INTRODUCTION*

- **Marijuana is still the #1 illicit drug of choice in the ARMY**
- **Marijuana is considered to be a gateway drug to other drug use and abuse.**
- **Army Drug Policy – "ZERO TOLERANCE"**
- **ARMY DRUG USE 1998 DOD SURVEY**
  - **9.8 % (7.7% is Marijuana) used in the past 12 months**

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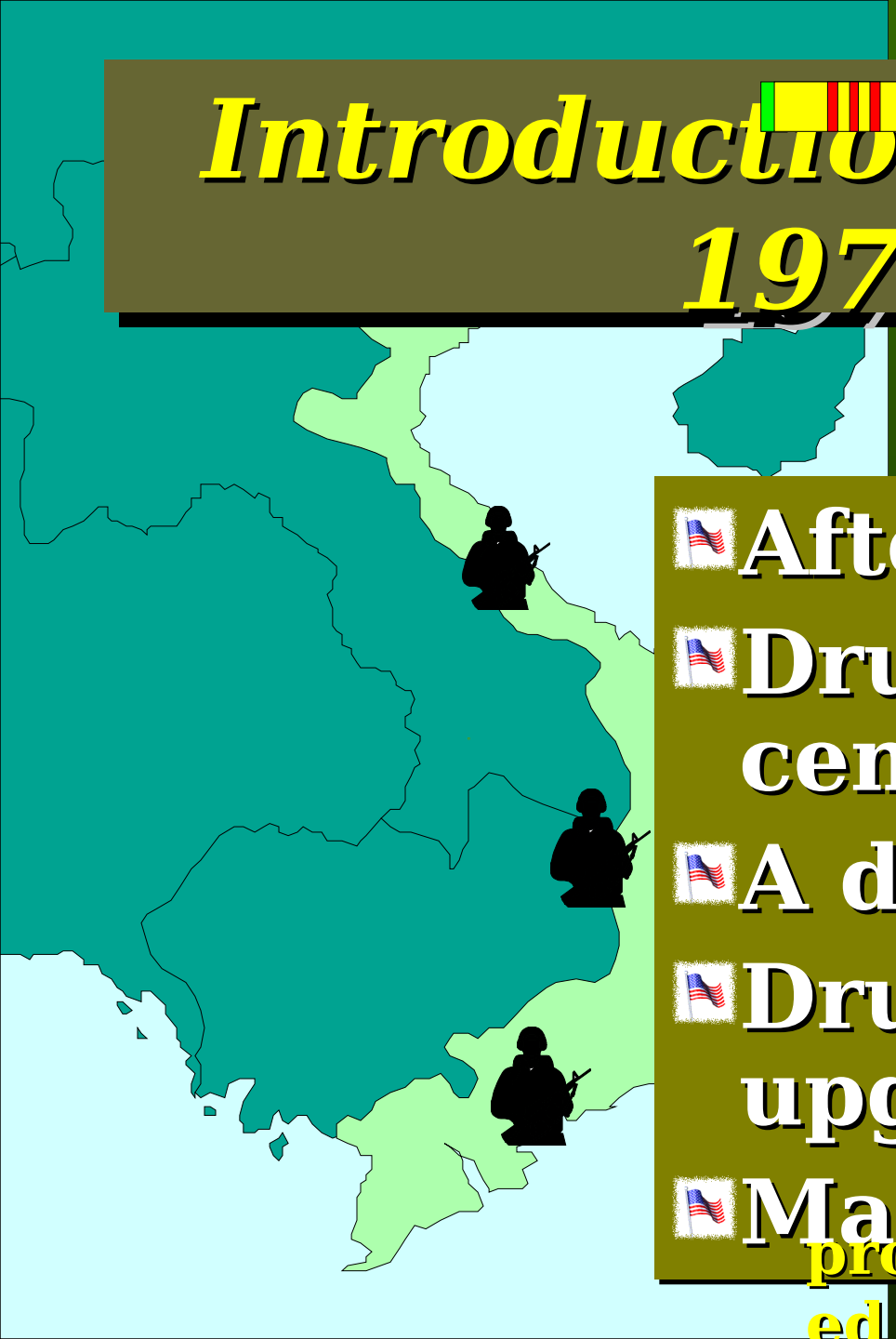
# Introduction: 1960's – 1970's



- Aftermath of Vietnam
- Drug treatment centers opened.
- A decade of change
- Drug screening labs upgraded to forensic
- Mandatory urinalysis proce ed

# Introduction: War on Drugs

- 1980  33% Of The Military Reported Illicit Drug Use
- 1981 - U.S.S. NIMITZ  Crash of Marine Corps EA-6B
- Autopsies Of Killed Sailors And Marines Revealed THC in Six Bodies
- DOD Declared  “War On Drugs.”

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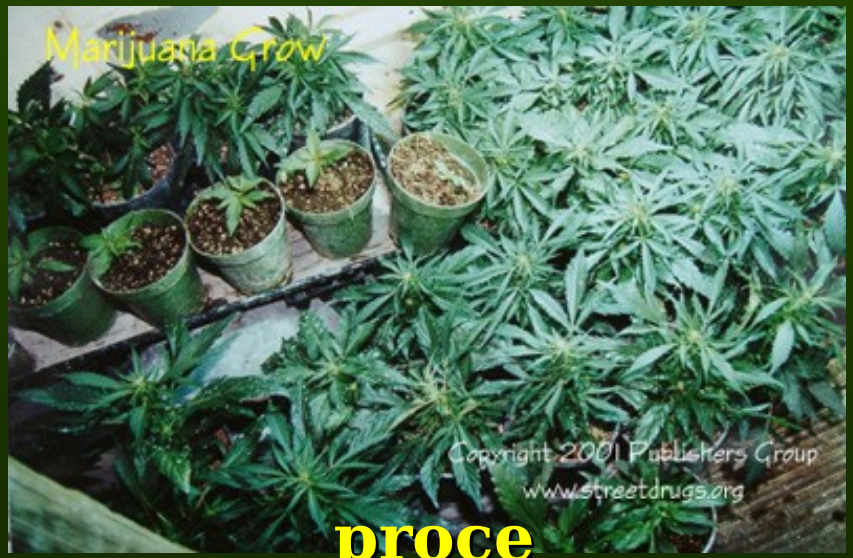
# Introduction: Attitudes

- **Shifting attitudes among parents of today's generation who themselves used marijuana in the 60's -70's.**

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# *Introduction: Trends*

- More intense patterns of marijuana abuse such as “Blunt” marijuana cigars.
- Changes in public perception about marijuana as reflected by open use of the drug in film, media, musical recordings and rock or rap videos.
- $$ Marijuana can sell for $600 an ounce, $8,000 a pound, $20 for a blunt cigar.

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# *Introduction: Trends*

- **Pulmonary risks of smoking marijuana are often ignored.**
- **Addiction is associated with alcohol and other drugs – not marijuana.**
- **THC is psychologically addictive - abuse and addiction is frequently denied.**

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# Pharmacology Of Marijuana

- Marijuana is a psychoactive or mind altering drug.
- Psychoactive drugs can produce a mind state similar to psychosis.
  - Psychosis - A major mental disorder in which the personality is veryseriously disorganized.

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# Pharmacology Of Marijuana

- Marijuana is the term used in the U.S. to refer to the cannabis plant.
- Delta 9 - Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the active ingredient that causes the “high”.
- THC is much stronger today than in the 1960’s:
  - 1% THC content in 1960’s
  - 3 – 28% today

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# Pharmacology Of Marijuana

- Recent domestic report revealed 29.86% THC content.
- Much more dangerous today.
- Mixing other drugs with THC by drug dealers and users.

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# *Three Basic Forms*

- **Marijuana** - Made from the leaves, flowers or stems of the hemp plant.
- **Hash/Hashish** - Concentrated form of marijuana by compressing marijuana resins into small blocks.
- **Hash Oil** - Made by soaking marijuana in a chemical solvent (such as rubbing alcohol) and then evaporating the solvent to obtain an oil concentrate.

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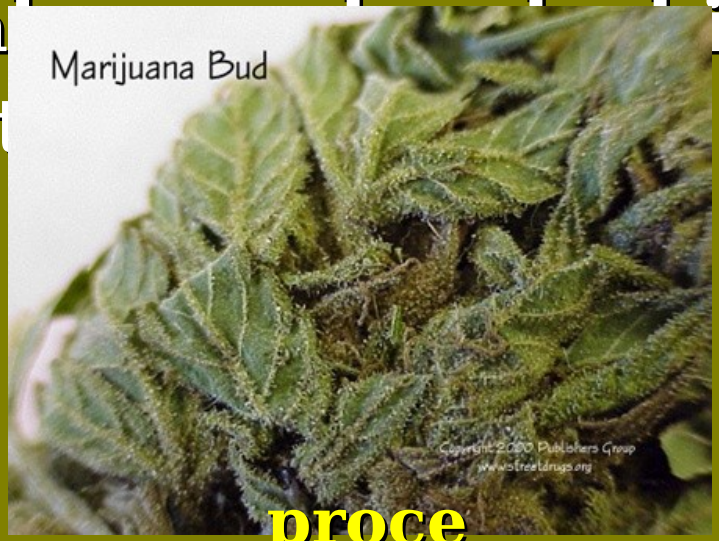
# *Pharmacology*

- **When smoked, the marijuana is absorbed through the capillaries in the lungs.**
- **When the marijuana is eaten, the chemical into the small int**

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# Acute Effects

- Euphoria
- Short Term Memory Loss
- Increased Appetite
- Bloodshot Eyes
- Dry Mouth/Throat
- Sleepiness

- Increased Heart Rate
- Loss of Coordination
- Paranoia
- Hallucinations
- Chronic Panic Attacks
- Psychosis

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# *Acute Effects*

- **Marijuana smoke contains more tar and cancer causing substances than tobacco smoke.**
- **Smoking one joint = five cigarettes.**
- **With one puff you inhale 150 cancer - causing substances and twice as much tar as with tobacco.**

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# *Acute Effects*

- **Smoking marijuana can cause:**
  - **Bronchitis**
  - **Lung cancer**
  - **Brain damage**
- **Smoking marijuana causes some neurotransmitters to clump up and become inactive.**
- **Neurotransmitters send messages throughout the brain for body functions.**
- **Interferes with thinking, ability to focus, memory lapses.**

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# *Long Term Effects – Male Specific*

- **Reduces male hormone testosterone.**
- **Sex organs do not function properly.**
- **Reduces sperm count in adult males.**
- **Ages 10-20 is when male sex organs are maturing.**
- **Use can cause long-term negative affects on sex organs.**

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# *Long Term Effects – Female Specific*

- **Testosterone increases causing facial hair, more body hair and acne.**
- **Decreased sexual pleasure.**
- **Disrupts menstrual cycles and ovulation.**

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# *“Our First Line of Defense”*

**The ARMY URINALYS IS PROGRAM**

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# Army Drug Screening Labs

- Every specimen screened for the following drugs:
  - THC, Cocaine, Amphetamines (includes Methamphetamines, Ecstasy and other designer drugs)
  - At least one of the following:
    - Opiates (Codeine, Morphine, Heroin)
    - PCP
    - LSD
    - Barbiturates
  - Steroids can be checked upon request at the UCLA Olympic analytical drug lab.

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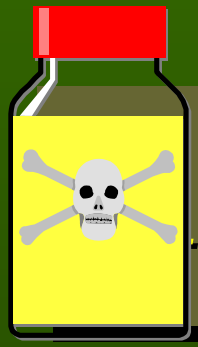

# Army Drug Lab Procedures

- All samples are checked
- Each drug has a cut-off level established by DOD.
- 3rd verification check (confirmation) - if positive 1st & 2nd time.

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# rmy Drug Lab Procedures

- **Positive samples:**
  - **Stored in original bottle and frozen for 1 year**
  - **Can be extended upon request**
  - **Suspected adulteration:**
    - **Message sent to command stating adulteration**
    - **C.O. Can still process or follow-up with another sample**

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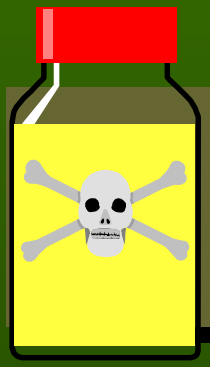

# *THC and Alcohol*

- **Alcohol's relationship to other drugs**
- **Alcohol -member of depressant family**
- **Synergistic with other drugs**
- **1 + 1 = 3 ??**
- **Cross addictive to other drugs**
- **Cross tolerant to many other drugs**
- **Effects on judgment can lead to illicit THC or other drug use**

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# Check Point!

Now You Choose…

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1. The Army's policy regarding illegal drug use is zero tolerance:

True?

False?

# Correct!

**Army Drug Policy – “ZERO TOLERANCE”**

proceed

**The correct answer is 'True'...**

The Army's policy regarding illegal drug use is zero tolerance.

- Marijuana is still the #1 illicit drug of choice in the ARMY
- Marijuana is considered to be a gateway drug to other drug use and abuse.
- **Army Drug Policy – "ZERO TOLERANCE"**
- ARMY DRUG USE 1998 DOD SURVEY
  - 9.8 % (7.7% is Marijuana) used in the **past 12 months**

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## 2. Marijuana is the most abused illegal drug in the Army:

True?

False?

# Correct!

Marijuana is the most abused illegal drug in the Army.

proceed

**The correct answer is 'True'…**

Marijuana is the most abused illegal drug in the Army.

- **Marijuana is still the #1 illicit drug of choice in the ARMY**
- Marijuana is considered to be a gateway drug to other drug use and abuse.
- Army Drug Policy – "ZERO TOLERANCE"
- ARMY DRUG USE 1998 DOD SURVEY
  - 9.8 % (7.7% is Marijuana) used in the **past 12 months**

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# 3. Marijuana is psychologically addicting and abuse is frequently denied:

True?

False?

# Correct!

Marijuana is psychologically addicting and abuse is frequently denied.

proceed

## The correct answer is ‘True’…

Marijuana is psychologically addicting and abuse is frequently denied.

- Pulmonary risks of smoking marijuana are often ignored.
- Addiction is associated with alcohol and other drugs – not marijuana.
- **THC is psychologically addictive – abuse and addiction is frequently denied.**

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# 4. The active ingredient in marijuana that causes the high is:

TABC ?

HASH ?

THC ?

ADAPT ?

# Correct!

The active ingredient in marijuana that causes the high is:

THC

proceed

**The correct answer is 'THC'...**

The active ingredient in marijuana that causes the High is THC.

# *Pharmacology Of Marijuana*

- Marijuana is the term used in the U.S. to refer to the cannabis plant.

- **Delta 9 – Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the active ingredient that causes the "high".**

- THC is much stronger today than in the 1960's **proced**

## 5. The Army tests all urine samples for THC:

True?

False?

# Correct!

The Army tests all urine samples for THC

proceed

**The correct answer is 'True'…**

The Army tests all urine samples for THC.

# *Army Drug Screening Labs*

- **Every specimen screened for the following drugs:**
  - **THC**, Cocaine, Amphetamines (includes Methamphetamines, Ecstasy and other designer drugs)
  - At least one of the following:
    - Opiates (Codeine, Morphine, Heroin)
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# Thank You…

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Type your name and organization.
Print it out and save a copy to your files and email it to usarmy.lee.imcom.mbx.leee-ima-adco@mail.mil & your organization Training Officer confirming that you have completed this Army Substance Abuse Program online training.

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